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The plates, of which there are sixty-nine, consist of the woodcuts of Cooke's "Handbook" arranged upon the pages. Not more than a dozen or so of these plates have any connection with the text, and they are consequently of no sort of value. Evidently the publisher had these on hand, and put them in to fill up. They add thickness to the book, and doubtless add also to its cost.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

Colton's Elementary Course of Practical Zoology.¹—This work is truly an elementary one,—not a text-book, but a series of guides to the study of certain typical animals, with the aim of giving the student, by following the directions given, such a practical acquaintance with comparative anatomy as will enable him to obtain a clear idea of the animal kingdom. Classification of the objects chosen is not attempted, for the much alike grasshopper and cricket commence the work, and are followed by examples of the other hexapod orders. Then come studies of the spider, millipede, and various Crustacea, to which succeed the earth-worm, clam, and snail. The Infusoria and Amœba come after these, and then the author proceeds to the fish, the frog, the snake, the turtle, and the mammal, which are succeeded by the echinoderms, coelenterates, and sponges. This arrangement seems to have been carefully considered in the adaptation of the work to the needs of those who will most use it,—students in academies and high schools,—and here this has a marked advantage over those laboratory manuals which follow a cut-and-dried system. By first examining closely-allied forms they are led to comparative work, while the order of the subjects is such as to accommodate the increasing skill of the pupil in manipulation. The work is really a valuable one for beginners in zoology, and deserves the success with which we understand it is meeting.

Lydekker's Catalogue of Fossil Mammalia.²—Mr. Richard Lydekker, formerly of India, has recently followed up his extensive series of papers upon the fossil fauna of Hindustan by a valuable catalogue of the Fossil Mammalia of the British Museum of Natural History. The portion of the catalogue issued comprises four volumes of the usual size of the British Museum series, with rather more than one thousand pages and one hundred and thirty-four illustrations. Part I. contains the Primates, Chiroptera, Insectivora, Carnivora, and Rodentia. Part II. the Ungulata Artiodactyla. Part III. the Ungulata Perissodactyla, Toxodontia, Condylarthra, and Amblypoda, while Part IV. is entirely occupied by the Proboscidea. The classification is based

¹ An Elementary Course in Practical Zoology. By Buel P. Colton. Boston, D. C. Heath & Co., 1886.

² Catalogue of the Fossil Mammalia in the British Museum (Natural History). Part I. By Richard Lydekker, B.A.F.G.S., etc. London, 8vo. 1885. Printed by order of the Trustees Brit. Mus.